

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8, 19, 20, 22-24 and 27-40 have been examined. Applicant notes that claim 20 is considered allowable and that claims 1-8 and 19, 22-24 and 27-40 have been rejected. Applicants hereby cancel without prejudice claim 1, and amends claims 2-6, 8, 19 and 28-40. After entry of this paper claims 2-8, 19, 20, 22-24 and 27-40 remain pending for examination.

Claim Amendments

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.114, Applicants hereby cancel claim 1 and amend claims 2-6, 8, 19 and 28-40 to make them dependent upon allowable claim 20; accordingly, the claim amendments add no new matter. As all currently pending claims ultimately depend from allowable claim 20, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim cancellation and amendments render the pending rejections moot and place the claims in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 248-5016.

Respectfully submitted,
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